



**WINCHESTER COMMON COUNCIL  
IN REGULAR SESSION  
JANUARY 13, 2015**

**DRAFT**

A regular session of the Winchester Common Council was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2014 in the Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall. Mayor Elizabeth Minor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilor Evan Clark, John Hill and Corey Sullivan; Vice-President Milt McInturff; City Councilor Kevin McKannan and William Wiley; Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-Mayor Les Veach; President John Willingham (9)

**ABSENT:** None (0)

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** – Mayor Minor led the citizens and councilors in a Moment of Silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Minor led the citizens and councilors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION – PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Minor accepted nominations for President of Council.

Councilor McInturff nominated Councilor Willingham for President. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Veach.

After receiving no further nominations, Mayor Minor closed the nominations and the nomination of President John Willingham was approved 9/0 effective January 13, 2015.

- **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION – VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

President Willingham accepted nominations for Vice-President of Council.

Councilor Veach nominated Councilor McInturff for Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Hill.

After receiving no further nominations, President Willingham closed the nominations and the nomination of Vice-President McInturff was approved 9/0 effective January 13, 2015.

- **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION – VICE MAYOR**

President Willingham accepted nominations for Vice-Mayor of Council.

Councilor Wiley nominated Councilor Veach for Vice-Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Minor.

Councilor Clark nominated Councilor Hill for Vice-Mayor.

After receiving no further nominations, President Willingham called for a vote. President Willingham, Mayor Minor, Vice-President McInturff, and Councilors McKannan, Sullivan, and Wiley voted for Councilor Veach for Vice-Mayor.

Councilors Clark and Hill voted for Councilor Hill for Vice-Mayor.

President Willingham closed the nominations and the nomination of Vice-Mayor Les Veach was approved 6/2 with Councilors Clark and Hill voting in the negative. The election of Vice-Mayor Veach is effective January 13, 2015.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting and December 16, 2014 Work Session

Councilor Hill moved to approve the minutes as presented. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then unanimously approved 9/0.*

#### **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Minor presented her 2014 Annual Report. (see attached)

#### **REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Eden Freeman announced the new City Calendar is going out in the newspapers tomorrow. She stated there is a lot of important in it that she believes residents will find it to be a great resource going forward into the year. Christmas tree collection and yard waste collection will end for the season on January 21<sup>st</sup>. These collections will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>. Leaf collection has been suspended due to weather.

#### **REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Anthony Williams stated he did not have a report to present.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

##### **1.1 O-2014-44: Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR NECESSARY EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015**

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.*

Councilor Clark moved to approve O-2014-44. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>VOTE</u></b>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

**1.2 O-2014-45:** Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT ARTICLE 17 OF THE WINCHESTER ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO NONCONFORMING USES AND VESTED RIGHTS. (TA-14-476)

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:22 p.m.*

Vice-Mayor Veach moved to approve O-2014-45. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>VOTE</u></b>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

**1.3 O-2014-48:** Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT ARTICLES 3, 4, 5, 5.1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 15.1, 16, 16.1, 18, AND 23 OF THE WINCHESTER ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PERMIT AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, AND FEES. (TA-14-645)

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve O-2014-48. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>VOTE</u></b>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

- 1.4 O-2014-46:** Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 0.064 ACRES OF LAND AT 116 W. LEICESTER STREET (*Map Number 192-01-S-12*) & 118 W. LEICESTER STREET (*Map Number 192-01-S-13*) FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (MR) ZONING WITH HISTORIC WINCHESTER DISTRICT (HW) OVERLAY TO RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (RB-1) ZONING WITH HISTORIC WINCHESTER DISTRICT (HW) OVERLAY. (RZ-14-625)(*The proposed rezoning would permit up to 2 units.*)

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve O-2014-46. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>VOTE</u></b>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

- 1.5 O-2014-47:** Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 0.736 ACRES OF LAND AT 2508 PAPERMILL ROAD (*Map Number 291-03- -1*) FROM INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (M-2) ZONING TO COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (CM-1) ZONING. (RZ-14-639) (*The rezoning would permit retail development in conjunction with the adjoining property to the south.*)

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.*

President Willingham asked City Attorney Williams or City Manager Freeman if this included the amendment passed at Work Session. City Manager Freeman stated according to the Planning Director it does.

Councilor Wiley moved to approve O-2014-47. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President McInturff then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

**1.6 R-2014-51:** Authorizing the Local Zone Administrator to Resubmit an Amendment Application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Regarding the City of Winchester's Enterprise Zone Program due to DHCD's Recommended Application Alterations

Economic Development Coordinator Tyler Schenck presented the proposed changes to Winchester's Enterprise Zone Program included in the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Enterprise Zone Amendment Application. He stated the boundaries are being extended to include the Federal Mogul property, O'Sullivan Films, Ward Plaza, the old hospital, Sharp Street, and a couple other alterations that include smaller commercial enterprises. The City is allowed to designate up to one square mile and still has about 100 acres left to expand and contract should we choose to. The City will not be allowed to make alterations to the program for one calendar year after the application has been approved by the state but can submit additional amendment applications in the future. In addition to the boundary amendments, the City is modifying two existing incentives. The first one is the Substantially Rehabilitative Commercial Industrial Property Real Estate Tax Exemption. The number of years for tax abatement is being reduced from 12 to 10. The qualification requirements are also being adjusted to reflect the assessed value of commercial or industrial structures. As proposed, structures must be increased by at least 60% and the qualifying square footage includes the original structure and up to 150% of the original square footage. These are very minor alterations and will create some uniformity between the Historic District and the Enterprise Zone. Incentive 14 reflects similar adjustments; it's just for

the existing Substantially Rehabilitated Residential Property Real Estate Tax Exemption. The assessed value of residential structures must be increased by at least 40% and the qualifying square footage includes the original structure and up to 150% of the original square footage. Staff is proposing an additional incentive that is titled the Commercial and Mixed-use Property Rehabilitation Grant. These grants will be for people who would typically be eligible to receive tax abatements but could lose any interest in the tax program should they sell the property. With this incentive, they could receive a onetime cash grant and forgo any future abatement if they sell the property. The grant can be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 depending on the assessed value.

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:29 p.m.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve R-2014-51. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved 9/0.*

**1.7 Public Hearing:** Appeal of the decision by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR-14-689) regarding the replacement of windows for the property located at 455 North Loudoun Street

President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on this issue. Seeing none, he continued the public hearing until the end of the meeting.

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*President Willingham asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.*

## **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**3.1 R-2014-52:** Authorization to rename Vanceright Avenue to Vanceright Circle

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved 9/0.*

## **4.0 AGENDA**

**4.1 Motion** to reappoint Kelly Wolfe as a member of the Planning Commission to a four year term expiring December 31, 2018

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve the reappointment of Kelly Wolfe. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Wiley then unanimously approved 9/0.*

President Willingham stated that he would like to entertain a motion to add an executive session to tonight's regularly scheduled meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel, personnel matters, and the acquisition/disposition of real property.

Vice-Mayor Veach moved to add this executive session to tonight's regularly scheduled meeting. *The motion was seconded Vice-President McInturff then unanimously approved 9/0.*

MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(7) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE AND STATUS UPDATE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY AND LEGAL CONSULTATION REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF SPECIFIC LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVICE BY THE CITY ATTORNEY AND MATTERS OF ACTUAL OR PROBABLE LITIGATION, AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A) (1) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF THE EMPLOYMENT, ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC OFFICERS APPOINTEES, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF OR PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(3) AND (6) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE ACQUISITION OF AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE WHERE IF MADE PUBLIC, THE BARGAINING POSITION OR FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE CITY WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED

Vice-Mayor Veach moved to convene into executive session at 6:31 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to reconvene in open session at 7:25 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Veach then unanimously approved.*

Upon returning, each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

*A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>VOTE</u></b>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Councilor McKannan	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Sullivan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Wiley	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

President Willingham entertained a motion to add to the agenda tonight a Resolution in reference to BAR-14-689 which states “Whereas Council is of the belief that the proposed repairs of the windows is essentially a like or likable placement with the windows frames remaining in sashes of the same configuration as the original and the removal of non-period aluminum storm windows which detract from the historic appearance of the structure and the resolution would offer that Council does hereby reverse the decision of the finding of the BAR Historic standards in this case and authorizes the completion of the repairs to the building as described herein.”

Vice-President McInturff motioned to add the above resolution of the BAR-14-689 to tonight’s agenda. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then approved 8/ with President Willingham abstaining.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to approve the resolution regarding BAR-14-689. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then approved 8/0 with President Willingham abstaining.*

## **5.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved 9/0.*

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Kelly Feltner  
Administrative Assistant



**2014 MAYOR'S REPORT**

1/13/15

Our first meeting in January is always exciting to me as I have the opportunity to present this annual report to the community and reflect on what we've accomplished together over the past twelve months. As any municipality will experience when trying to move their community forward, this year has had many ups and downs. But 2014 was a year we should all be proud of as we look to the future and focus on making 2015 a year to remember.

In November, we had to face reality that two of our Council members would be leaving us. We will greatly miss Jeff Buettner who served 16 years and John Tagnesi who served four years. But when one door closes, another one always opens. And today, we welcome two new members to City Council: Kevin McKannan and Bill Wiley. Both have extensive experience on the Planning Commission and will bring a wealth of knowledge to their new roles. Let me be the first to publicly welcome you to City Council and thank you for taking this step...I know you'll both do great things.

In July 2014, we welcomed our fantastic City Manager Eden Freeman to the team. From day one, she has been a contributing member and the leader we needed. She never misses an opportunity to connect with the citizens and always makes time for her staff and Council members. I don't know how she does it all and still continue to charm us with her quick wit, friendly demeanor and warm smile. She's accomplished so much already in such a short time I can't wait to see what amazing things will happen in 2015 with her at the helm. Thank you, Eden, for choosing Winchester and we're looking forward to many more years together. Keep up the great work!

City Council and staff have been working hard to accomplish the tasks identified in the City's strategic plan. The four 2014-2015 strategic plan goals include growing the economy, creating a more livable city for all, developing a high performing organization and continuing the revitalization of Old Town. The strategic plan will continue to guide us for the next 12 months and influence our decisions for fiscal year 2016. I have faith that our dedicated team will continue to make significant progress on the tasks outline in the plan this coming year.

As we have begun the budget season for the next fiscal year beginning July 1st, I must mention that in addition to receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, for the first time in 2014, the City's Triple A bond rating was also reaffirmed by Standard and Poor's. This rating will continue to enhance the City's borrowing power and provide the opportunity for lower interest rates when we need to fund capital projects in the future. Both of these designations prove that the City is on the right track, has strong financial management policies and practices, is in a position of great standing, and is a very good manager of the tax payers' money. Congratulations to Council, Eden, our Finance department, and the entire team for guiding the City toward achieving and then maintaining these impressive distinctions.

For more information about the budget and budget adoption process, review the City's Budget in Brief publication. This Budget document is an easy to follow citizen's

guide to the City's finances and is available on our website or in the Finance offices of City Hall.

2014 was another successful year for our beautiful and revitalized downtown. Activities in Old Town continue to grow and more people are coming to discover what all the talk is about! Old Town Winchester is finally the vibrant destination we always knew it could be and something residents and tourists make a point to experience. The new Old Town brand and logo has gone a long way to help with this effort and the new brightly-colored light pole banners and brochures match downtown's new vibe.

Old Town also launched a new mobile app in 2014 to help visitors and shoppers find their destination and Old Town's Facebook page surpassed 9,000 followers! The City in partnership with either Full Circle Marketing or Winchester Parks and Recreation executed at least a dozen well-attended events downtown. From KidzFest to Friday Night Live to the Christmas Parade, these events drew thousands of people to Old Town and all were a great success. In addition to all this activity downtown, twenty-four new businesses opened in 2014. Revitalization of Old Town has been a long-time goal of Council's and it is so exciting to see it thriving.

While we're on the subject of downtown, last year I mentioned that the renovation of the Taylor Hotel was finally progressing. Now I'm excited to report that work on this historic building is complete and the results couldn't be more amazing. Now all that's left is completing the flytower renovation and that corner of the Mall will be complete. Our thanks go out to the Economic Development Authority for making this much-needed renovation a grand reality.

The Winchester Police Department continually strives to proactively keep everyone and the overall community safe. In 2014, the department was granted re-accreditation by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. This accreditation is a formal acknowledgement that the City's Police Department continually complies with over 200 specific professional standards and is, in other words, awesome!

Oftentimes through hardship we grow stronger and it was heartwarming to see the entire community and country come together to root for, support and honor one of Winchester's bravest police officers. I'm talking about the one and only K-9 Officer Kota. As you well know, Kota injured his leg while trying to apprehend a suspect who was hiding from officers in an attic crawl space. Unfortunately, Kota fell through the ceiling and broke his leg in several places. But that didn't stop him. He dragged himself back up the stairs to continue assisting his fellow officers. Because of his commitment to his job and heroic story, Kota became an instant celebrity as tens of thousands of people followed his long recovery on Facebook and helped Kota raise money to pay for his medical expenses as well as purchase K-9 bullet proof vests. Kota was named the American Humane Association's Hero Dog in Law Enforcement Award earlier this year and has been featured in numerous articles, TV shows, parades and more. We're so proud of Kota and his handler Officer Brittney Neer and want to thank them both for their hard work and dedication.

The much needed Public Safety Telecommunications Tower project finally got started after a rollercoaster ride and many years of discussions. But we are on the right

track with the two-tower plan and by the end of this year, we should have a state-of-the-art system that will drastically improve communications between our public safety personnel and ultimately enhance their service capabilities.

Another major accomplishment that has been a little bit of a thrill ride was the plan approval for the new John Kerr Elementary School. Franklin Roosevelt once said, that “school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize.” Improving our children’s educational experience begins with a facility that can meet their needs. I can’t wait to see the new school when it’s finished and the inspiration it will bring to so many children and teachers. They all deserve it!

The Winchester Fire & Rescue Department also serves our community with both highly-trained career and volunteer firefighters and EMTs. The Winchester Fire and Rescue Department responded to 5,888 calls in 2015, installed 21 smoke alarms and 127 child safety seats, conducted 443 fire inspections, saved over 7.2 million dollars of property from fire damage, and reached over 7,355 citizens through public education efforts. The Department is always looking for ways to help others in the community and during their annual “Fill the Boot” campaign, over \$20,186 was raised for MDA. In addition, over \$3,890 for Every Woman’s Life during their breast cancer awareness pink t-shirt program. Keep up the great work!

Several other 2014 accomplishments involved teamwork, collaboration and a desire to help others succeed. The Police Department’s Timbrook House continues to help at-risk teens with school work and social skills and the Timbrook Foundation in partnership with Social Services and the community helped make the holidays a little brighter for thirty-eight Winchester families through the 2014 toy and food drive. In addition, the City has purchased the Winchester Towers property with the plan to renovate it. We’ve partnered with the community to determine a vision for the property and brainstorm ideas through several public input open houses as well as an online feedback form. I’m looking forward to seeing what happens next with that property and hope the renovation will energize the revitalization of the City’s north end. Another partnership and revitalization effort that got a kick start in 2014 was the National Avenue Gateway Improvement Project. The City partnered with the Economic Development Authority to purchase a block of vacant properties at the East Piccadilly Street and National Avenue and East Lane intersection. This exciting project will greatly enhance that entrance into downtown and drastically improve traffic flow. Once complete, I think this area will be one the community will greatly value and enjoy.

Winchester Parks and Recreation was hard at work in 2014. The Cal Ripken ten-year-old World Series was held in Jim Barnett Park for the second time this past August. Ten teams and their families visited Winchester for the eight-day tournament and everyone had a great time. The Winchester team played hard and made it to the playoffs only to lose to their good friends from Hawaii. The sportsmanship shown by our boys in blue was special to see and they did a wonderful job representing Winchester.

The long list of programs, classes and leagues offered by Winchester Parks and Recreation keeps growing and growing. They are doing a fantastic job bringing new and exciting activities to the Park for our community to enjoy. I strongly encourage our residents to sign up for any of the programs offered or consider getting involved to volunteer or become an instructor. The City’s parks system is a community asset that

should be treasured and utilized to its full potential. Be sure to take advantage of all it has to offer.

Many facilities in Jim Barnett Park and the neighborhood parks received upgrades this past year including many of the ball fields, the indoor pool, some nature trails and Abram's Creek Wetlands Preserve. The Park was also able to offer the community several events last year including many holiday celebrations for children such as Easter egg hunts outside and in the pool, Spookcessible, Ghouls and Gals Middle School Dance, Little Turkey Treats, Cookies with Santa, Swimming with Santa and much more. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual World Explorer Obstacle Course continued to grow in popularity and the fun family-friendly outdoor movie series on the Mall continued last summer in partnership with Old Town Winchester. These successful low-cost or free events bring so much joy to the community and I can't wait to see what happens in 2015 in our parks!

The City is always looking for ways to improve communication with the public and continues to reach out through Facebook, Twitter, our website, the City's weekly electronic newsletter, City-News, cable channel 6 and many others. Stay informed by following the City on social media or by subscribing to our electronic newsletter. You can also sign up for the City's annual INSIGHT Citizen's Academy. The academy takes participants through every aspect of local government using interactive activities, in-depth discussion and facility tours.

The third citizen satisfaction survey was distributed in 2014. The results will help us rank projects and spending, determine service areas in need of improvement and identify the community's priorities. A citizen survey is conducted every three years and really helps both Council and staff weigh the importance of certain services, programs and projects during the annual budget process and future planning activities. Thank you to everyone who received the survey and took the time to provide your feedback.

Speaking of survey results, in 2011, it was obvious that the community wanted something done about the condition of the city's sidewalks. Since then, Council has appropriated funds each year for some replacements. In 2013, Council adopted a Sidewalk Master Plan which details all sidewalk improvements needed in the City as well as a funding plan. In 2014, the City replaced or added 5,500 linear feet of sidewalks. The City also took to the streets and repaved approximately 20.9 lane miles on 35 different streets as part of the City's Street Maintenance Master Plan. I know working around paving or concrete crews and closed streets is not fun but it is always well worth it in the end.

The accomplishments I've mentioned tonight are only a fraction of what the City has achieved over the past year. I could never cover everything or list all the awards our dedicated employees have received, but I will close with how proud I am to be the Mayor of this special city. I am excited about what the future might bring for Winchester and I can't wait to get started on another fabulous year as we continue to work toward accomplishing our strategic plan goals.

Happy New Year everyone! That concludes my report.